

## *Jade Gingerich*



### *Director of Employment Policy, Maryland Department of Disabilities*

Jade Ann Gingerich has over 2 decades of state policymaking experience, starting as executive director of the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. Most recently she has served as Director of Employment Policy for the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD), the nation's only Cabinet level cross-disability department. An expert in state level interagency and external coordination and collaboration, she has presented widely on the topic of employment and transition. She has testified before the state legislature and serves nationally as a subject matter expert regarding employment and transition.

Accomplishments include: co-leading Maryland's earliest Employment First efforts; creation of the Employed Individuals with Disabilities program (Maryland's Medicaid Buy In); leading the Maryland Medicaid Infrastructure grant; and co-founding the Maryland's Youth Leadership Forum. She has co-chaired the workgroup overseeing the elimination of subminimum wages in Maryland. She has served as a founding member of the State Agency Transition Collaborative. In addition to her policy work, Ms. Gingerich served as project director for Maryland PROMISE grant. This was a 5 year research grant awarded to Maryland in October 2013 by the U.S. Department of Education. PROMISE, a cross-agency partnership, worked to increase education and employment outcomes for youth between the ages of 14 and 16 on SSI and their families. She currently serves as MDOD's representative to the Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council, Maryland 2 GEN Commission, and the Center for Advancing Policy on Employment of Youth Working group. Current projects include efforts to expand and replicate statewide the Howard County Autism Society's Autism Hiring Initiative. This initiative targets individuals with postsecondary education and/or work experience who aren't otherwise eligible for employment services to prepare for, access, and maintain employment. Ms. Gingerich is also providing technical assistance and training to businesses in support of their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts.

She has a Master of Science in Special Education with a specialization in Transition Services from the Johns Hopkins University.